



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

April 7, 2004

BREVARD ARMED ROBBER SENTENCED
TO 64 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

ORLANDO - U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway today sentenced a Palm Bay man, **ANTALE LEVAR WILLIAMS**, age 26, to a term of imprisonment of 64 years for the armed robberies of three Brevard County convenience stores in January 2003. Williams previously had pled guilty to three counts of interference with commerce by robbery. He subsequently was convicted in the same case of three additional counts of carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence after a December 2003 jury trial in federal court. In addition to his prison sentence, Williams must serve five years in a supervised release program, perform 150 hours of community service, pay a \$600 special assessment and make full restitution to the victims of the robbery.

According to the evidence presented at the trial, Williams and his 19 year-old co-defendant, Yosvany Jesus Castro, robbed three Brevard County convenience stores between January 5-7, 2003. The stores are located in Palm Bay, Titusville and Mims, Florida and are owned by the 7-11 Corporation and The Pantry, Inc. During the robbery spree, Castro used a semi-automatic pistol to threaten customers and store clerks while Williams physically assaulted store employees. The combined robberies netted the pair

a total of just over \$300. In March 2004, Castro was sentenced to more than 66 years' imprisonment for his role in the crimes.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the State Attorney's Office for Brevard/Seminole Counties, the Titusville Police Department, the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Palm Bay Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the ATF. United States Attorney Paul Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr. and Special Assistant United States Attorney Gregory J. Konieczka.